as part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. According to these reports, construction would be completed in four months at an estimated cost of US$ 19.7 million. According to media reports, the Chinese side has said that they would be mindful of environmental concerns while doing so. Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interests and take all necessary measures to safeguard these interests.

Road linking India and Myanmar

1896. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are constructing a road linking India and Myanmar;

(b) if so, by when the construction would begin; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is a road between Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo that has linked India and Myanmar since February, 2001. At present, the road is being maintained and repaired by Border Roads Organisation under a bilateral agreement between India and Myanmar.

Fishermen with Pakistan Authorities

1897. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat and MPs of Gujarat State have represented to take up issue of release of languishing fishermen with Pakistan Authorities;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the response of Government of Pakistan; and

(c) the number of fishermen and boats that are still under the custody of Pakistan (*i.e.* PMSA) particularly belonging to Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) Government have taken up the issue of the release of Indian fishermen and their boats regularly with the Government of Pakistan. Most recently, Government had raised the issue of fishermen with Pakistan at the Home Secretary level talks on July 3-4, 2007 in New Delhi and the two sides had agreed to release on August 14-15, 2007 eligible prisoners and fishermen and to release boats except trawlers in each other's custody. However, Pakistan released only 100 Indian fishermen on 13 August 2007.

(c) 296 Indian fishermen and 327 boats continue to be in Pakistani custody.